

CLAIMS:-

1. Apparatus for dispensing a medicament, wherein at least a portion of one or more of the internal surfaces of components of the apparatus which come into contact with medicament during storage or dispensing has a layer of one or more cold plasma polymerised monomers bonded to at least a portion thereof with the proviso that the layer is not of a cold plasma polymerised fluorinated hydrocarbon where the apparatus is a pressurised dispensing container.

5

2. Apparatus as claimed in claim 1 in which the one or more monomers for cold plasma polymerisation where the apparatus is not a pressurised dispensing container are selected from the group of materials comprising perfluoro-cyclohexane, perfluoro-hexane, tetrafluoroethylene, trifluoroethylene, vinylidene fluoride, vinylfluoride, fluoroethylene and fluoropropylene.

10

3. Apparatus as claimed in claim 1 in which the layer is of a cold plasma polymerised siloxane.

15

4. Apparatus as claimed in claim 3 in which the monomer for cold plasma polymerisation is dimethyl siloxane.

20

5. Apparatus as claimed in any one of the preceding claims in which the treated portion is made from a plastic polymer of synthetic rubber.

25

6. Apparatus as claimed in any one of the preceding claims in which the apparatus comprises a housing adapted to receive a container for storing the medicament, a mouthpiece and duct means connecting an outlet of the container with the mouthpiece, and at

30

35

least a portion of one or more of the internal surfaces of the duct and/or mouthpiece is treated.

5 7. Apparatus as claimed in claim 6 in which at least a portion of the surfaces of the duct and the mouthpiece have a layer of plasma polymer bonded thereto.

10 8. Apparatus as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 6 in which the apparatus is a metering valve for use with a pressurised dispensing container, the valve comprising a valve stem co-axially slidable within a valve member, said valve member and valve stem defining an annular metering chamber, outer and inner annular seals operative between the respective outer and inner ends of the valve member and the valve stem to seal the annular metering chamber therebetween, where at least a portion of the metering valve is treated to have a layer of a plasma polymer bonded to at least a portion of an internal surface of the metering chamber.

15 9. Apparatus as claimed in claim 8 in which at least a portion of the surface of the valve member has the layer of plasma polymer bonded thereto.

20 10. Apparatus as claimed in claim 8 or claim 9 in which at least a portion of the surface of the valve stem has the layer of plasma polymer bonded thereto.

25 30 11. Apparatus as claimed in any one of claims 8 to 10 in which at least a portion of the surface of the seals have the layer of plasma polymer bonded thereto.

35 12. Apparatus as claimed in any one of claims 8 to 11 in which the valve further comprises a valve body in which the valve member is located, the valve body

having the layer of plasma polymer bonded to at least a portion of its surface.

13. Apparatus as claimed in any one of claims 8 to 12  
5 further comprising a gasket extending between the sealing surfaces of the metering valve and a pressurised dispensing container, said gasket having the layer of plasma polymer bonded to at least a portion of the surface thereof.

10

14. Apparatus substantially as hereinbefore described with reference to and as shown in the accompanying drawings.

2007/02/24 10:50:33